

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Department of Natural Resources

Room 1060

July 13, 2004

Minutes

Member Present:

SOWARDS, Glade – Utah Energy Office
HARTY, Kimm - Utah Geological Survey
CANNING, Michael – Division of Wildlife Resources
KEENE, Michael – Office of Technology & Science
WINTCH, KENNY, SITLA
LAUMAN, Susan - Forestry, Fire and State Lands
BIRKES, William - Division of Drinking Water
HOWARD, Ty - DEQ/DERR
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, PAM - DOGM
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks & Recreation
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn – Department of Natural Resources
HIGDON, Matthew - BLM
WIMMER, Sheldon - BLM
CORDELL, Roy - NPS
STEED, David - Contractor, MAXIM

I. Approval of Minutes

Glade Sowards Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Kimm Harty made a motion to approve the June 8, 2004 as submitted, Michael Keene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Special Presentations

Fire Management Planning - Matthew Higdon (BLM), Sheldon Wimmer (Fire Management Officer)

The BLM has initiated an effort to amend up to 21 Land Use Plans (LUP) and revise the five BLM Fire Management Plans in Utah. The proposed LUP Amendments are to be based on the Federal Wildland Fire Policy (1995, 2001) and recent BLM guidance. The LUP Amendments will guide development and implementation of the five FMPs that provide fire management direction for all public lands managed by the BLM in Utah. Currently, LUPs in the State do not incorporate direction from the Federal Wildland Fire Policy and do not fully incorporate current BLM guidance related to fire management planning. The proposed LUP Amendments will establish landscape level fire management objectives; describe desired wildland fire conditions; identify the suite of management strategies and actions to meet desired wildland fire conditions; describe areas where fire may be restored to the ecosystem; describe areas where fires are unwanted; identify general restrictions on fire management practices; identify criteria used for establishing fire management priorities; and identify the anticipated maximum burned acres and acres proposed for hazardous fuel reduction treatment for each BLM Field Office; and identify the acres estimated for emergency stabilization and restoration for each Field Office.

Revised FMPs will include site-specific decisions on hazardous fuel treatment acreage, and goals, objectives and suppression strategies. FMPs must be revised to meet Federal Wildland Fire Policy and interagency planning guidance, and to ensure that the wildland fire management program is fully described, including goals, objectives, and actions.

The BLM is currently conducting initial public scoping, including public meetings. The BLM will receive support from Maxim Technologies in developing the NEPA analyses. The six individual EAs will be developed in the coming months with an anticipated 30 day public review of the proposed EAs in November/December, and release of the final LUP Amendment EA in January/February 2005 (which would initiate the 60 day Governor's Consistency Review). The EAs for the FMPs will be finalized subsequently.

III. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Chairman Sowards distributed a copy of the revised state action form, if any changes are necessary please give them to Carolyn by the next meeting.

Pam Grubaugh-Littig stated the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining has moved to a new Price Field Office at 455 West Railroad Avenue. Coal mining and oil and gas inspectors are located there. Drop by and say hi sometime.

On June 16, 2004 a global settlement with Lodestar Energy and other parties was reached for the reclamation of coal mining operations - one of the sites is in Utah at the White Oak Mine (by Schofield). Utah will receive \$1.217 million for the reclamation of this site.

Mike Keene, Office of Technology and Science reported the University of Utah has had demonstrations of the AUGER project in southern Utah.

Matthew Higdon, Bureau Land Management announced the Price DEIS will be out Friday (July 16) Vernal and Richfield this fall (Sept. - October), Moab/Monticello is in the process of being completed and Kanab sometime this fall around October.

Ty Howard, DEQ/Environmental Response reported a lot of progress is going on in the Town of Eureka the division is in the process of cleaning up contaminated soils.

Susan Zarekarizi, State Parks and Recreation stated the Bear Lake RMP will soon be released.

Bill Schlotthauer, Division of Water Rights announced a public meeting was held in Tooele on July 7. The State Engineer proposed amending his policy concerning the area immediately northeast of the Tooele Army Depot. The area has been contaminated by a plume of TCE coming from the depot. The State Engineer proposes to not allow any new wells in the area. Details may be found on the Div. of Water Rights website.

A public meeting has been scheduled for Eagle Mountain on July 21 at 2 PM in the City Council Chambers. The focus of the meeting is to discuss the results of the recently completed UGS geologic framework study.

A public meeting has been scheduled for Kamas on July 29 at 7 PM in the Kamas City Hall Auditorium. The focus of the meeting will be to discuss the results of two recently completed studies. One is the UGS geologic framework study and the other is a hydrology study by the USGS (Technical Publication No. 117).

The Division will be reorganizing its website to improve useability and ease of navigation. Comments and suggestions should be emailed to Bill Schlotthauer.

Glade Sowards, Chair informed the Committee that UEO will be completing a draft study on the economic impacts of oil and gas wells in the Uinta Basin on Friday, July 16. This will be forwarded to Uintah County for review. A copy will be available at the Uinta Basin Energy Days event on August 4.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to bring before the Committee, Glade Sowards, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m. The next meeting will be held August 10, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1060.